

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 1, 5, 15 and 17-22 without prejudice or disclaimer.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~construction beam~~deck system according to claim ~~1~~14, further comprising at least one reinforcing rod in the tubular housing such that the solid material surrounds the reinforcing rod.

3. (Currently Amended) A ~~construction beam comprising a tubular housing filled with a solid material having a Poisson's ratio, wherein the tubular housing is constructed such that a Poisson's ratio of the tubular housing is less than the solid material, the tubular housing forming part of the construction beam, wherein the tubular housing and the solid material are formed of materials that effect a beam strength exceeding that of a correspondingly sized wood construction beam, and~~deck system according to claim 2, wherein the at least one reinforcing rod is stressed using one of a pretension method and a post-tension method in the tubular housing.

4-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~construction beam~~deck system according to claim ~~1~~14, wherein the tubular housing is formed of a fiber reinforced polymer.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~construction beam~~deck system according to claim 7, wherein the solid material is concrete.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~construction beam~~deck system according to claim 8, further comprising at least one reinforcing rod in the tubular housing.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~construction beam~~deck system according to claim 9, wherein the reinforcing rod is formed of a material selected from the group comprising steel, carbon, fiberglass, and Kevlar.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~construction beam~~deck system according to claim 7, wherein the solid material is a material selected from the group comprising concrete, fiber reinforced concrete, polymer concrete, sand, and structural foam.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~construction beam~~deck system according to claim 7, wherein the tubular housing is formed of a material selected from the group comprising fiberglass, carbon, and Kevlar.

13. (Currently Amended) A ~~construction beam~~deck system according to claim ~~14~~14, wherein the tubular housing comprises a geometrically-shaped cross-section.

14. (Currently Amended) A deck system comprising a plurality of construction beams secured side-to-side, wherein each of the construction beams comprises a tubular housing filled with a solid material having a Poisson's ratio, wherein the tubular housing is constructed such that a Poisson's ratio of the tubular housing is less than the solid material, the respective tubular housings forming part of each of the construction beams, wherein each of the construction beams further comprises at least one transverse aperture therein defining a corresponding at least one transverse channel, the deck system further comprising at least one reinforcing bar extending through the transverse channel.

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15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A deck system according to claim ~~15~~14, wherein the at least one reinforcing bar is secured in the transverse channel under tension to provide a transverse post-stress in the deck system.

17-22. (Canceled)